

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY P:KKJONIETZ:RMS

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APPROVED BY P:KKJONIETZ

S/S:MR. GAMMON

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O 152132Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 225922

TOPOL 52

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC FROM TOKYO 15 NOV 73:

QUOTE UNCLAS TOKYO 14956

SECTO 191

VEST PASS SCOWCROFT FROM MCCLOSKEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP

SUBJECT: SECVISIT TOKYO - PRESS BRIEFING, NOVEMBER 15, 1973

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ON-THE-RECORD PRESS BRIEFING  
IN TOKYO, NOVEMBER 15, 1973

AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY: FIRST LET ME APOLOGIZE FOR KEEPING  
YOU WAITING. I HAVE JUST COME FROM THE CHIEFS OF MISSION  
MEETING. I WILL BE GLAD TO TRY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

Q. BOB, WAS SECRETARY KISSINGER ABLE TO GIVE THE JAPANESE  
ANY SPECIFIC ASSURANCES, AND IF HE WAS, WHAT ARE THEY,  
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THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD BE OF HELP IN THEIR OIL  
CRISIS?

A. I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET INTO THAT KIND OF DETAIL, SO  
FAR AS THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JAPANESE ARE CONCERNED.

THE SUBJECT OF OIL OCCUPIED A VERY GOOD MEASURE OF THE CONVERSATIONS THAT THE SECRETARY HAD TODAY. AND ALL I WANT TO SAY IS THAT IT IS OUR HOPE, NATURALLY, THAT AS AND IF A SETTLEMENT ON THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY DIFFERENCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST CAN BE ACHIEVED, THAT WE WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF PRODUCTION AND EMBARGO OF EXPORT OF OIL FROM THE AREA.

Q. BOB, ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, THERE WAS SOMEWHAT CONFUSING UPI STORY TODAY OUT OF WASHINGTON THAT SAID EITHER, AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, AMERICAN TROOPS ON TAIWAN WOULD BE DOWN ANOTHER 3,000, DOWN TO 3,500 FROM 6,500 BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, AND THAT THIS WAS PREVIOUSLY UNDISCLOSED. ARE YOU AWARE OF THAT STORY? COULD YOU CLARIFY WHAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IS REGARDING TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM TAIWAN -- WHETHER THERE IS ANY COMMITMENT TO REACH A CERTAIN LEVEL BY THE END OF THIS YEAR?

A. JOHN, THAT IS THE FIRST I HAVE HEARD OF THAT STORY. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THE LEVEL OF AMERICAN FORCES ON TAIWAN PRESENTLY IS SOMETHING IN THE AREA OF 6,000 TO 6,500. AND WHETHER THERE IS A SCHEDULE ON WITHDRAWALS THAT WOULD PUT IT TO THE FIGURE OF WHAT WAS APPARENTLY REPORTED BY A CERTAIN TIME IS NOTHING I CAN CONFIRM. I JUST DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q. DID SECRETARY KISSINGER ASK THE JAPANESE IN THESE DISCUSSION NOT TO TAKE ANY FURTHER DIPLOMATIC MOVES OR MAKE ANY STATEMENTS WHICH COULD COMPLICATE OR MIGHT COMPLICATE THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION?

A. I HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MY ANSWER TO THAT WOULD BE NO COMMENT. I DON'T MEAN BY THAT TO BE ABRUPT. BUT I HAVE ALREADY SAID I WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE TODAY.

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Q. BOB, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT OTHER SUBJECTS WERE TOUCHED ON IN ADDITION TO OIL IN THE TALKS? SPECIFICALLY, WAS THE QUESTION OF JAPAN'S ROLE IN THE EUROPEAN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES DISCUSSED?

A. THE OTHER SUBJECTS WERE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CHINA, THE GENERAL MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THERE WAS SOME VERY BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN WITH THE EUROPEAN DECLARATIONS. IT HAS BEEN OUR FEELING NOW FOR SOME TIME THAT IN SOME APPROPRIATE WAY JAPAN SHOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THESE PROPOSED DECLARATIONS ON EUROPE OR ON THE EUROPEAN-ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

Q. BOB, MAY IF FOLLOW UP THAT ANSWER, PLEASE. YOU SAID THE POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION. IS THERE ANY DOUBT THAT JAPAN WILL BE ASSOCIATED IN SOME WAY WITH ONE OF THE THREE, IF THERE ARE THREE, DECLARATIONS?

A. I SHOULD NOT THINK SO.

Q. MR. MCCLOSKEY, WAS THERE ANY INDICATION ON THE JAPANESE SIDE THAT THEY MIGHT BE FORCED TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL? I SAID "THEY MIGHT BE FORCED."

A. THERE AGAIN, THAT QUESTION GOES TO A MORE INTIMATE ACCOUNT OF THE TALKS THAT I AM AFRAID I CANNOT DISCUSS. AND I WOULD NOT SPECULATE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER AS A RESULT OF THAT NON-ANSWER.

Q. BOB, NORMALLY YOU HAVE BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING, WHEN YOU CAN BE, ABOUT TALKS OF THIS KIND, EXCEPT WHEN SOME PARTICULARLY DELICATE DIPLOMATIC PROCESS IS UNDER WAY. IS THERE SUCH A PROCESS NOW THAT PREVENTS YOU FROM BEING MORE FORTHCOMING ABOUT THESE TALKS WITH THE JAPANESE?

A. IT IS PROBABLY APPARENT TO EVERYONE HERE THAT THE SUBJECT OF OIL IS A HIGHLY IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE ISSUE HERE IN JAPAN. I HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE DISCUSSED THIS IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE JAPANESE TODAY. NOW, SO FAR AS A DIPLOMATIC PROCESS UNDER WAY,  
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I THINK YOU ARE PRETTY MUCH AWARE OF THE GENERAL DIPLOMATIC PROCESS THAT WE HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN THROUGHOUT THIS TRIP AND WHICH WE HOPE WILL LEAD TO MORE FORMAL TALKS LATER ON.

Q. BOB, YOU JUST SAID "LATER ON". I WAS WONDERING IF THAT INDICATED A DELAY OF THE EXPECTATION THAT THIS CONFERENCE MIGHT GET STARTED SOMETIME NEXT MONTH.

A. I WOULD THINK NEXT MONTH REMAINS A POSSIBILITY. I THINK WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT THE TIMING OF IT WOULD DEPEND UPON PERFORMANCE ON THE TERMS OF THE CEASE FIRE ON THE GROUND.

Q. BOB, ARE YOU IMPLYING IN YOUR ANSWER TO FRANK STARR THAT IN ANOTHER SETTING, PERHAPS IN WASHINGTON IN A FEW DAYS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER HIS QUESTION AND QUESTIONS LIKE IT?

A. DO YOU MEAN ON THE SUBJECT OF OIL?

Q. YES -- BECAUSE OIL IS SO SENSITIVE HERE.

A. I JUST CANNOT PROMISE.

Q. BOB, YOU HAVE SAID YOU CANNOT GO INTO ANY OF THE SPECIFICS ON DETAILS. CAN YOU GIVE US SOME INDICATIONS THOUGH OF WHERE THE TWO SIDES STAND AT THIS POINT? ARE THEY AT CROSS PURPOSES ON THE SUBJECT OF COORDINATION OF POLICY ON ENERGY? IS THERE A WISE DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS? DO THEY HAVE ANY PROSPECT FOR NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM? DO THEY HAVE ANY ONGOING DISCUSSIONS PLANNED?

A. AGAIN, FORGIVE ME, MURREY, BUT FOR THE MOST PART OF YOUR QUESTION, I AM OBLIGED TO ANSWER WITH NO COMMENT. SO FAR AS THE LAST PART OF YOUR QUESTION IS CONCERNED, I WOULD EXPECT YES, THAT THIS SUBJECT WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN.

Q. MR. AMBASSADOR, YOU MENTIONED THAT THE U.S. FEELS UNCLASSIFIED

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JAPAN SHOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ATLANTIC PRINCIPLES, OR WHATEVER THEY ARE CALLED. DID YOU GET ANY INDICATION AS TO HOW THE JAPANESE FEEL ON THE SUBJECT?

A. IT HAS BEEN OUR IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS A MATTER THAT THE JAPANESE THEMSELVES ARE INDEED INTERESTED IN. NOW, HOW THE MEANS WILL BE FOUND TO FORM AN ASSOCIATION -- "ASSOCIATION" IS NOT THE WORD I MEAN -- HOW JAPAN CAN ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH EUROPEAN DECLARATIONS, I THINK STILL HAS TO BE WORKED OUT. WE OURSELVES, THE UNITED STATES, ARE CONTINUING IN DELIBERATION WITH THE EUROPEANS AS THE DECLARATIONS ARE BEING FORMULATED. WHERE AND HOW DIRECTLY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILL COME INTO IT, I DON'T KNOW THAT ANYONE CAN SAY AT THIS POINT.

Q. BOB, WAS THE POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO JAPAN DISCUSSED TODAY OR BROUGHT UP IN ANY WBY?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.  
PERHAPS WE COULD LET ONE OF THE JAPANESE CORRESPONDENTS ASK A QUESTION.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAY THE SECRETARY IS GOING TO KOREA?

A. IT WAS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD STOP IN KOREA, AS THE TRIP FOR CHINA WAS FIRST LAID ON AND GOING TO OCCUR IN SEPTEMBER. AND IT HAS REMAINED A STRONG POSSIBILITY UP

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